

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Publication No. JP 8-18955 to Shimizu et al. (hereinafter "Shimizu"). In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify its distinguishing features.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Shimizu discloses an image dividing means 102, a plurality of coding sections 119-126, a multiplexing means 132 and a coordinated coding control means 108-111. Further, the Examiner alleges that control parts 108-111 are all interconnected in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections 119-126.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a coordinated coding control means that receives some or all of coding parameters, image status parameters and coding result parameters which are extracted from a plurality of coding sections, adjusts the parameters in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections, and supplies the parameters to the plurality of coding sections in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections. Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification; specifically, on page 9, lines 7-26.

In the present invention, as shown in Fig. 1, the in-division coding control section 105, 108 and 111 perform coding control based on the image status parameters, coding status parameters, and coding resulting parameters supplied thereto to produce appropriate coding control parameters and supply the coding control parameters to the coding sections 103, 106 and 109 and the buffers 104, 107 and 110, respectively. Further, the in-division coding control sections 105, 108 and 111 communicate the parameters supplied thereto from the coding sections

103, 106 and 109 and the buffers 104, 107 and 110 to the coordinated coding control section 112 over the communication bus 113.

Shimizu, on the other hand, discloses a picture divider 102 that divides a picture inputted from the input terminal 101 into a plurality of picture divisions 103, and inputting these division picture images 103 into division picture coding equipments 104-107 and encoding them (paragraph 0021). Furthermore, Shimizu teaches multiplexing the coded data 131 of each division picture by the multiplexing section 132, and outputting the coded data 131 to an output terminal 133 (paragraph 0032). However, Shimizu does not teach controlling the parameters as recited in the claims of the present invention. Shimizu fails to teach supplying the parameters to the plurality of coding sections in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections.

The present invention teaches supplying the coding control parameters to the coding sections 103, 106 and 109 and the buffers 104, 107 and 110. The coding sections 103, 106 and 109 execute their coding in accordance with coding control parameters such as quantization parameters supplied thereto from the in-division coding control section sections 105, 108 and 111, respectively. The coding sections 103, 106 and 109 detect or calculate image status parameters such as complexity parameters of the inputted image, code status parameters used for coding such as quantization parameters, coding result parameters of an object of coding such as a generated information amount, and other necessary parameters and supplies the parameters to the in-division coding control section sections 105, 108 and 111, respectively. The buffers 104, 107 and 110 execute modification by using upper limit amounts permitted for the buffers to use in accordance with the coding control parameters supplied thereto from the in-division coding control section sections 105, 108 and 111, respectively.

Shimizu, on the other hand, fails to teach supplying coding control parameters to the coding sections in order to achieve coordinated control between the coding sections, as recited in independent claim 1. Additionally, dependent claims 2-5 recite that information amounts or buffer amounts for each coding section is used as a parameter to be supplied or a limitation item to a parameter production method.

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458; 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Shimizu fails to teach receiving coding parameters, adjusting the parameters to be used for compression encoding by coding sections in a control period or under a control condition determined in advance, and supplying the parameters to the plurality of coding sections in order to achieve coordinated coding between the coding sections. Therefore, Shimizu fails to anticipate the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-5 be withdrawn, and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Esatto, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

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